

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 201624Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8192

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RW, BY

SUBJECT: RWANDAN DELEGATION VISIT TO BRUSSELS

1. RWANDAN DELEGATION, LED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR TO BUJUMBURA
IGNACE KAHURIJE AND INCLUDING TWO MILITARY OFFICERS, CALLED ON
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE JULY 17 TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS
BEHIND THE COUP D'ETAT. FONOFF TELLS US THAT KAHURIJE ESSENTIALLY
REPEATED WHAT HABYALIMANA HAD ALREADY TOLD THE BELGIAN
AMBASSADOR IN KIGALI, GIVING ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO
MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM AND RESPECTING
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. WHEN BELGIANS WERE
ASKED FOR THEIR OPINION OF THE COUP, THEY REPLIED THAT THEY HAD
NO OPINION ON WHAT WAS AN INTERNAL RWANDAN MATTER AND
THAT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM OF RECOGNITION SINCE BELGIUM RECOGNIZES
STATES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, FONOFF
OFFICIAL ASKED EMBOFF WHAT US POSITION ON RECOGNITION WILL BE
EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT YET SEEN DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS
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ON THIS MATTER.)

2. KAHURIJE GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE RWANDAN EMBASSY AND SAID THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. THE ARMY WILL KEEP POWER UNTIL IT IS JUDGED THAT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS CAN BE ORGANIZED. IN THE MEANTIME CIVILIANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNING THE COUNTRY. THE COUP WAS MADE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME DANGER ARISING FROM "EXACERBATED REGIONALISM" AND WAS NOT INSTIGATED OUT OF PERSONAL AMBITION ON THE PART OF COUP LEADERS. KAYIBANDA, WHO RENDERED GREAT SERVICE BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLITICAL DETERIORATION OF THE COUNTRY, IS PRESENTLY IN A VILLA IN THE INTERIOR. WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI, "THE CONCEPTION AND THE ORIENTATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES REMAIN DIFFERENT".

3. THE RWANDAN DELEGATION, WHICH ARRIVED WITHOUT INVITATION, IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PARIS, BONN, LONDON AND ROME. BOOCHEVER

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